

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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On Dec. 22, 1978, the Department of State Highways and Transportation became the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Also in 1978, the State Transportation Commission was created through a constitutional amendment to direct policy for the department.

MDOT's primary functions are constructing, improving and maintaining the 9,652 miles of interstate, U.S. and M-numbered highways; developing and implementing comprehensive transportation plans for the entire state, including all modes of public transit (aeronautics, bus and rail); providing professional and technical assistance; and administering state and federal funds allocated for these programs. The governor appoints the department director with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The **State Transportation Commission (STC)** establishes policy for MDOT, its programs and facilities, and other such public works of the state, as provided by law. The governor appoints the six commission members, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for three-year terms. No more than three members may be from the same political party. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

The **Aeronautics Commission**, created by Act 327 of 1945, is responsible for the general supervision of all aeronautics within the state. The commission is empowered to make and issue rules and regulations, as well as issue funding approval of airport development programs relevant to the location, design, building, equipping and operation of all airports and other aeronautical facilities. It prescribes powers and duties providing for the registration of aircraft and the licensing of airports, flight schools, airport managers and aircraft dealers meeting the requirements of the Aeronautics Code and federal regulations and standards. The commission also is empowered to make any rule considered necessary to properly carry out the provisions of the code.

MDOT works closely with the Aeronautics Commission and the STC, along with the Mackinac Bridge Authority in St. Ignace and the Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority in Sault Ste. Marie.

Organizationally, MDOT comprises four bureaus and nine offices. The four bureaus are Finance and Administration, Highway Development, Field Services, and Transportation Planning. MDOT's nine offices are Aeronautics, Business Development, Communications, Economic Development, Governmental Affairs, Human Resources, Operations Administrative Services, Passenger Transportation, and Rail.

The **Bureau of Finance and Administration** provides internal support for departmental operations. It is responsible for accounting services, fiscal reporting, fiscal planning, budgeting, cash management, contracting, bond financing, property leasing, purchasing, stores control, office space management, and all related financial functions.

The **Bureau of Highway Development** and the **Bureau of Field Services** are responsible for designing, constructing, operating and maintaining a statewide system of trunkline highways, Welcome Centers, roadside parks, and rest areas. They also provide administrative and technical assistance in designing, constructing, and maintaining city and village streets and county roads.

The **Bureau of Highway Development** comprises the Design and Development Services divisions, as well as the Environmental Services Section.

Design prepares construction plans and engineering data for state highways, bridges, and related structures. It ensures compliance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and MDOT design procedures, principal standards, and specifications. The division also houses the Traffic and Safety Section, which includes overseeing the signing, pavement marking, and safety programs.

Development Services oversees the following for the state trunkline system: real property appraisal, acquisition, condemnation, clearance, relocation, management and disposal of excess property, and related appurtenances. The division also coordinates utility, highway advertisement, non-MDOT construction and utility installation permitting, and oversize/overweight commercial vehicle transport permitting. Additionally, the division administers the federal and state aid programs for local agencies.

Environmental Services provides support and expertise on environmental issues in all aspects of state highway planning, design, construction and operation.

The **Bureau of Field Services** has two divisions and two administrative sections: Construction Field Services Division, Operations Field Services Division, Research Administration, and Safety and Security Administration.

Construction Field Services provides statewide support for engineering guidance and technical expertise for pavements, bridges, materials, specifications, geotechnical design, traffic control, environmental mitigation, and system preservation. The division also provides engineering, materials control and testing oversight for the concrete and bituminous paving and bridge fabrication programs.

Operations Field Services provides statewide support for winter operations, roadway surface and roadside facilities. It also provides bridge repair crews and oversees the statewide bridge inspection program. Other responsibilities include traffic incident management, congestion and mobility, work zone management, traffic signal operations and the Statewide Traffic Operations Center. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) focuses on coordinating the ITS program, MDOT's autonomous vehicle activities and MDOT's connected vehicle strategies.

Research Administration manages MDOT research, which includes research funded with federal and state funds. Projects focus on MDOT's research needs and are typically contracted to universities or consultants with MDOT managing each project.

Safety and Security Administration is responsible for emergency management, homeland security, occupational safety and health, and environmental audits and hazardous materials.

The **Bureau of Transportation Planning** is primarily responsible for maintaining MDOT's federal aid eligibility by developing and implementing a comprehensive transportation planning process. This results in transportation investments that are consistent with the STC's financial, social, economic and environmental policies. Other major responsibilities include strategic planning and policy development, multi-modal planning, program management, security and mobility planning, economic development, strategic information technology/tools, asset management, and operations-oriented process support.

Regional Offices — MDOT field operations are conducted from seven regional offices and 22 transportation service centers. The regional offices are located in Escanaba, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Saginaw and Southfield, the latter serving metropolitan Detroit.

Rest Areas — The department operates 66 freeway rest areas and 81 roadside parks across Michigan on interstate, U.S. and M-numbered routes.

Welcome Centers — MDOT operates 14 Welcome Centers across the state, which promote Michigan's myriad tourism destinations and travel-related businesses.

